**Most students have an identity, an interest, or a talent that defines them in an essential way. Tell us about yourself.**

My parents have always told me that I am bold and slightly carefree, but that I

can manage to pull off anything under pressure if I put my heart into it. I have

always been a last minute kind of person because my mind is always filled with

dynamic thoughts, trying to figure out the complexity of our society and how

our world works sometimes I get too overwhelmed with things happening around

me, what’s happening on Indian borders, the racism that’s still deeply embedded

in our society and how we still are making no real progress towards Climate change.

The past year, I have been trying to focus more on what I have to do right in

the objective moment rather than in my subjective visions so that with hard work

I will have the opportunities to prove myself and succeed in what I will do.

Pressure has always been a great motivator for me to push past my boundaries

and limitations. It has always succeeded in surprising others and even myself

at times. For me, there can be nothing better than the adrenaline frenzied

filled boost of remembering all the things you have to do and by when you

have to do them. Although we all have been naturally hardwired to work

when we have to, the anxiety and the pressure can sometimes take you the

extra mile. Remembering what’s at stake works for me to move even closer

to my dreams and goals. I still remember when I was in tenth grade, studying

for my mock exams, I used to get below average scores. The remarks from my

teachers at my performance, my parents’ disappointment at the waste of my

potential and my friends grades added a lot of pressure for me to perform well

in my igcse board exams. The pressure was more than enough for me to crack

under it and give up but it also had a steadying effect on me and it worked as a

wake up call for me to put my all into it and so from an E in International Maths

in ninth grade I got an A\* in my final board exams. However too much pressure

can make even the toughest people cave in, pressure has always helped me take

the last one big jump from a journey of a thousand steps.

After giving my TOK presentation yesterday, my class erupted in a huge applause and many

juniors came up to me to congratulate me on my engaging and informative

presentation. My English teacher had also called me an aberration; he meant that

I had the potential of surprising people by performing impeccably. I was so shocked!

I still vividly remember how sweaty and shaky my palms were and I was under the

strong impression that I had given my worst presentation ever. But then

realization hit me that I have been like this all along, I have always needed that

extra dire push and the remembrance of my goals to work even more hard to achieve my goals.

**“When we long for life without difficulties,**

**Remember that oaks grow strong in contrary winds,**

**And diamonds are made under pressure.”**

* **Peter Marshall**